

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Executive Registry

76-8204/1

8 JUL 1976

The Honorable Lawrence S. Eagleburger
Deputy Under Secretary for Management
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Larry:

On Tuesday I spoke to you about Ambassador Seymour Weiss' participation in an Intelligence Community sponsored exercise being conducted on behalf of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. Here are some further details.

As you may know, within the past couple of years the PFIAB has been critical of some major National Intelligence Estimates for what some of the Board considers undue emphasis placed on "most likely" developments rather than on the full range of future threats that might be supported by present evidence. The Board has raised its concern directly with the President. As an outgrowth of this Brent Scowcroft, Leo Cherne, and I have agreed to conduct an experiment this year in connection with NIE 11-3/8-76 -- the estimate on Soviet strategic programs and policies. The experiment involves setting up independent analytical teams on selected topics to compete with the intelligence community teams preparing the estimate. These independent teams will be composed of both government and non-government specialists. The attached correspondence outlines the nature of the exercise in greater detail.

One of the topics selected for independent analysis concerns Soviet strategic policy and objectives. The NIE Evaluation Committee of PFIAB has recommended Ambassador Weiss as the one to provide overall leadership on this analytical effort. As I see it, the role would require only a portion of his time. Ambassador Weiss has been informally asked about his willingness to participate and whether a part time effort over the summer would fit in his schedule. He expressed a real interest in the experiment and felt that he could make the necessary time available. He said he would participate providing you and the Secretary were agreeable.

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I believe this experiment worthwhile, and I want to see that the best available talent is provided to support it. Ambassador Weiss' background strongly recommends him for the role of team leader, and PFIAB's expression of confidence in him makes his selection doubly important to me and to the Intelligence Community. In view of this, I hope the Department will find no difficulty with my request. All necessary support will of course be provided by my office.

Sincerely,

/s/ George Bush

George Bush

Attachment:
As stated

Distribution:

Orig. - Addressee
1 - DCI
1 - Mr. Lehman
1 - Mr. Stoertz
1 - IC
2 - [redacted]

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[redacted] (7 July 1976)

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